



Release Highlights: April 14, 2005

MONTANA

County Population Estimates

<http://ceic.mt.gov/EstimatesCntyPop.htm>

2004 County Population Estimates

The Census Bureau has just released 2004 population estimates for counties. The Bureau typically publishes estimates for local areas after a one year sampling process; with city/place data to be released some time this summer. The county level data shows the continued trend of a small number of counties shouldering the majority of the growth for the state.

The Fastest Growing Counties

In looking at changes since the 2000 Census, Gallatin County grew the most in both total numbers of people and percentage, with 7,806 new residents, or 11.5% growth. Ravalli and Flathead Counties come in second and third, at 9.2% and 9.1% respectively. There are a couple of counties whose relatively low population allows for moderate total number increases to register as high percentage growth. Growth in Jefferson County, primarily across the border from Helena, shows 808 new residents, or 8% growth. And Golden Valley County registers 75 new persons since 2000, but with 60 of these new residents in just this latest estimate, making it the fastest growing county per capita in 2004. Other counties that saw steady 2004 growth due to a sizeable population threshold were Yellowstone County with 1,401 new residents, Lewis and Clark County with 781, Lake County with 545, Missoula County with 502, and Sanders County with 425.

Negative Population Growth

With the exception of Silver-Bow, Pondera, Powell, Teton, Beaverhead, and Toole Counties (depending on where you "draw the line"), all of the counties experiencing negative population growth are in the eastern half of the state. The trend from the 2000 Census continues in this latest batch of estimates, with 29 counties losing population from 2003 to 2004, and McCone, Powder River and Daniels Counties seeing the highest percentage reduction at 2% or higher.

Single Years of Age by Gender Estimates

The single years of age estimates for counties is scheduled to be released some time next month.

CONTACT

[Andrew Geiger](#)
[Research Analyst](#)

Census and Economic
Information Center
Montana Department
of Commerce
301 S. Park Avenue
P.O. Box 200505
Helena, MT 59620
406.841.2740 Office
406.841.2702 TDD
<http://ceic.mt.gov/>

RECENTLY RELEASED

April 5, 2005
CEIC Newsletter, Spring
Edition

March 28, 2005
State Per Capita and Total
Personal Income, 2004

March 28, 2005
State Educational
Attainment, 2004

UPCOMING RELEASES

April 21, 2005
State Population Projections

April 27, 2005
County Per Capita and Total
Personal Income, 2004